



Michigan State AFL-CIO

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KARLA SWIFT, *President*

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October 19, 2011

Honorable Member of Michigan Senate Reforms, Restructuring and Reinvention Committee:

House Bill 4929 and Senate Bill 636 would amend the Public Employee Relations Act to prohibit public employers from allowing payroll deduction from worker's paychecks for union dues.

Payroll deduction is a practice that is locally agreed upon between local boards of education and workers' union representatives. That decision should remain a local decision, as they know what works best for their districts. School employees also make the decision by signing authorization cards requesting payroll deduction for their union dues. Payroll deduction is used for union dues, but also for charitable donations, commercial loan payments and other payments.

The payroll deduction process is largely automated and does NOT cost school districts any more to perform multiple payroll deductions versus a single payroll deduction. In fact, some unions pay districts a nominal fee for the costs of processing these transactions. House Bill 4929 could actually create an added cost to school districts in that payroll process changes would have to be made district-wide.

These changes will cause problems for workers and their unions. Workers have become accustomed to payroll deduction as a means of budgeting their bills. They will now have to use alternative methods such as writing checks and mailing their dues which adds a financial burden to over 200,000 Michigan taxpayers across the state. There is no benefit to workers or the State; this bill is simply a step backward for Michigan.

We are asking you to oppose House Bill 4929 and Senate Bill 636.

American Federation of Teachers, Michigan
American Federation of State, County and
Municipal Employees, Council 25
International Union of Operating Engineers,
Local 324
Michigan AFL-CIO
Michigan Building and Construction Trades
Council
Michigan Laborers' District Council

Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
Michigan State Employees Association
United Auto Workers
United Food and Commercial Workers,
Local 876
United Steel Workers
Utility Workers Union of America